

Message Text

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61

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 CIEP-02

TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 XMB-04 OPIC-06 LAB-04

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9860

UNCLAS BOGOTA 6916

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: BGEN CO

SUBJ: TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS OF COLOMBIAN-AMERICAN
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

SUMMARY: THE COLOMBIAN -AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WILL CELEBRATE ITS TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF SEPT 9, 1975. COMMEMORATIVE ACTIVITIES ARE PLANNED, PERHAPS INVOLVING PARTICIPATION BY HIGH LEVEL GOC OFFICIALS. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE TO SEND CONGRATULATORY LETTERS. END SUMMARY.

1. THE COLOMBIAN-AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WILL CELEBRATE THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS FOUNDING ON SEPT 9, 1975. THE CHAMBER IS MAKING PLANS FOR APPROPRIATE ACTIVITIES TO COMMEMORATE THE DATE AND WILL INVITE THE PARTICIPATION OF HIGH-LEVEL GOC OFFICIALS.

2. WITH OVER 600 MEMBERS, THE COLOMBIAN-AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IS BY FAR THE LARGEST BINATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF ITS KIND IN COLOMBIA. THE CHAMBER HAS BEEN SOMETHING OF A TRAILBLAZER IN THAT IT HAS BEEN TRULY BINATIONAL FROM THE BEGINNING, RECOGNIZING THAT THE PROMOTION OF COMMERCIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN

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COLOMBIA AND THE US IS BASED ON A MUTUALITY OF

INTERESTS. ABOUT ONE-HALF OF THE MEMBERSHIP IS COLOMBIAN. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS IS EQUALLY DIVIDED BETWEEN COLOMBIANS AND AMERICANS AND THE CHAIRMANSHIP ALTERNATES BETWEEN COLOMBIANS AND AE. THE CHAMBER IS CONTINUOUSLY EXPANDING ITS ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES. RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS INCLUDE PARTICIPATION IN AND SUPPORT FOR US PAVILION AT 1974 BOGOTA FAIR; COOPERATION WITH USIS IN SPONSORSHIP OF A SEMINAR ON MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS; SPONSORSHIP OF A CORPORATE PUBLIC SERVICES SEMINAR; AND, CREATION OF AN ANNUAL AWARD (TO BE FIRST GIVEN IN 1976) FOR THE ORGANIZATION OR INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS CONTRIBUTED THE MOST TO COLOMBIAN ECONOMIC PROSPERITY. THE CHAMBER'S MAJOR ACTIVITIES TEND TO STRESS BUSINESS' IDENTIFICATION WITH THE COMMUNITY IN WHICH IT OPERATES.

4. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR HIGH LEVEL US GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO EXTEND CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CHAMBER ON THE OCCASION OF ITS TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY AND WE SUGGEST THAT THESE CONGRATULATIONS BE IN THE FORM OF LETTERS FROM SECRETARY OF COMMERCE MORTON AND DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE INGERSOLL. IF LETTERS CAN BE RECEIVED BY SEPT 5, THE CHAMBER WILL HAVE THEM REPRODUCED IN SEVERAL PUBLICATIONS SCHEDULED TO BE ISSUED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS. THE LETTERS, WHICH MAY BE ADDRESSED TO DR FRANCISCO VILLAVECES, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF COMMERCE, BOGOT, SHOULD BE SENT TO THE EMBASSY FOR FORWARDING.
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